

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the instant Application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

The original application contained 16 claims. Original claims 7-8 and 15-16 are cancelled. Original claims 5 and 13 are amended to depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively. Independent claims 1 and 7 were amended to traverse the \$103 Rejections. No new matter was added.

\$102 Rejection

The \$102 rejection is moot in view of the amendments where claims 5 and 13 now depend on claims 1 and 7, respectively, and claims 15 and 16 were cancelled.

\$103 Rejection

The rejection set forth in paragraph 5 is traversed by the amendments to independent claims 1 and 9 where the claims were directed toward an absorbent composite 'adapted for use in a disposable absorbent garment.' Both Harris and Hawkins disclose processes and devices for opening and treating crimped tow which is to be formed into tobacco smoke filter rods and make no mention of forming an absorbent composite adapted for use in a disposable absorbent garment as in the instant application.

Accordingly, the rejection based on Harris in view of Hawkins fails to suggest the instant invention, i.e., forming an absorbent composite adapted for use in a disposable absorbent garment. Thus, this rejection must be removed.

In view of the above remarks, the rejection set forth in paragraph 6 is moot because dependent claims 6 and 14 are dependent on allowable independent claims 1 and 7 respectively, thus, they are non obvious.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests that the claims remaining in the application be designated as novel and having inventive step.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Hammer III
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,764

Customer No. 29494
Hammer & Hanf, P.C.
3125 Springbank Lane, Suite G
Charlotte, NC 28226
Telephone: 704-927-0400
Facsimile: 704-927-0485
F:\FIRMDOCS\2005\021\Amendment05112006.doc